

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested. Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 17-21 are in the case.

I. PRIORITY

The present application is a continuation of Application Serial No. 09/617,505, filed July 14, 2000, now abandoned. As noted in the cover sheet for the present application, filed on June 15, 2001, certified copies of the British Priority Patent Applications were filed in the parent Application Serial No. 09/617,505 on July 14, 2000. A certified copy of the underlying PCT International Application No. PCT/GB99/00134, filed January 15, 1999 is not required in order to perfect the priority claim in the present application. Submission of certified copies of the two British priority patent applications is all that is required in order to perfect the priority claim in this case. Acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents is requested in the next paper to issue in this application.

II. SEQUENCE LISTING

In response to the objections to the sequence listing materials, a replacement sequence listing is submitted herewith in paper form and computer readable form. The specification has been amended to provide appropriate Sequence ID Numbers for the sequences listed in Figures 1-4, 11 and 12. Under the rules, it is believed that no SEQ ID numbers are required for the sequences appearing on page 6 of the specification.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

An objection has been made that the amendment presenting amended claims 5 and 7 was not accompanied by a clean copy of the amended claims. Since the official Action issued, the practice relating to the presentation of claim amendments has changed. In accordance with the current practice, all of the claims pending in the application are presented with appropriate indications of their amendment history.

It is noted that claim 11 has been examined. However, that claim has been canceled since the subject matter of that claim has been incorporated into claims 1 and 17.

It is noted that new claims 20 and 21 have not been entered. Those claims are re-presented with the present response. Entry and allowance of those claims are respectfully requested.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. In response, claim 6 has been amended to be consistent with claim 5 from which it depends.

Claim 8 has been objected to as allegedly containing insufficient antecedent basis for "the first and second structure-stabalizing stem loops". Claim 8 has been amended to be consistent with claim 1 from which it depends.

Claims 1-14 and 17-19 stand rejected as allegedly indefinite on the ground that it is unclear whether the claimed vectors comprise ribozyme sequences which target both

CCR5 and CXCR4 within a single vector, or which target a single target gene selected from CCR5 and CXCR4. In response, the vectors of the invention are targeted to individual gene sequences. In other words, the vector comprises a ribozyme sequence specific to either CCR5 or CXCR4.

Withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection is now believed to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

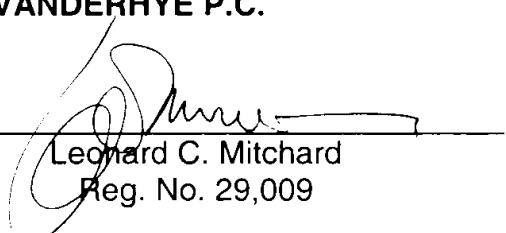
V. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

It is noted, with appreciation, that claims 1-14 and 17-19 are free of the prior art. With the above requested claim amendments and arguments, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early Notice of that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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